

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising:

an image carrier;

a blade member having a contacting portion elastically contacting ~~elastically~~
with said image carrier;

a semi-conductive member installed on said blade member; and

a power unit for ~~adding~~ providing a voltage to said semi-conductive
~~member.~~ member;

wherein said semi-conductive member is set apart from said contacting
portion of said blade member by a predetermined isolation distance Lb.

Claim 2 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said isolation distance Lb is set as follows:

$$0 < Lb \leq 1.0 \text{ mm.}$$

Claim 3 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said isolation distance Lb is set as follows:

$$0.7 < Lb \leq 0.8 \text{ mm.}$$

Claim 4 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said semi-conductive member is a tape with semi-conductivity.

Claim 5 (Original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said semi-conductive member is a resin plate with semi-conductivity.